

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please cancel claim 2 without prejudice, amend claim 1, and add new claims 18-21, such that claims 1 and 3-21 read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
a broadband access server responsive to a remote digital subscriber line (DSL) customer premises equipment (CPE) device; and
a communication path to provide for data communications with the broadband access server;
wherein the broadband access server receives a data packet during a discovery phase that includes a device identifier comprising a plurality of data fields corresponding to the DSL CPE device.
2. (Canceled).
3. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein the plurality of data fields includes a device firmware field, a chipset field, and chipset code field.
4. (Original) The system of claim 3, wherein the plurality of fields identify a particular type of CPE equipment.
5. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the broadband access server receives a plurality of device identifiers associated with a plurality of different DSL CPE devices within a network.
6. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the communication path is a point to point over Ethernet communication path.
7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the broadband access server is coupled to a database and wherein the device identifier is stored in the database.

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8. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the data packet is a host-uniq tag portion of a point to point over Ethernet active discovery packet.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the discovery packet is an initiation packet communicated from the DSL CPE to the broadband access server during a discovery stage process.

10. (Original) A communication system comprising:

a host server having access to a remote digital subscriber line (DSL) customer premises equipment (CPE) device, the host server receiving a device identifier associated with the DSL CPE device; and

a customer service terminal for use in connection with a communications network coupled to the host server, the customer service terminal receiving the device identifier and displaying the device identifier to a user of the customer service terminal.

11. (Original) The communications system of claim 10, wherein the device identifier includes a firmware identifier and a chipset identifier associated with the DSL CPE device.

12. (Original) The communications system of claim 10, further comprising an operations station, the operations station receiving and storing the device identifier, the operations station coupled to a report generation element to display a report that includes the device identifier.

13. (Original) The communications system of claim 12, wherein the report includes a plurality of device identifiers associated with a plurality of DSL CPE devices within the communications network.

14. (Original) The communications system of claim 10, wherein the host server is a broadband remote access server coupled to the customer service terminal via an intermediate computer network.

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15. (Original) The communications system of claim 10, wherein the device identifier is communicated as part of a host-uniq tag message in accordance with a discovery phase of a point-to-point over Ethernet initiation procedure.

16. (Original) The communications system of claim 15, wherein the host-uniq tag is a 24 bit binary number.

17. (Original) The communications system of claim 10, wherein the device identifier includes a firmware identifier, a chipset identifier, and a chipset firmware identifier.

18. (New) A system comprising:

a broadband access server responsive to a remote digital subscriber line (DSL) customer premises equipment (CPE) device, the broadband access server adapted to receive a data packet during a discovery phase that includes an identifier comprising a device identifier and a device hardware identifier corresponding to the DSL CPE device.

19. (New) The system of claim 18, wherein the hardware identifier comprises: a firmware identifier and a chipset identifier.

20. (New) The system of claim 18, further comprising: a database adapted to store the identifier.

21. (New) The system of claim 21, further comprising: an operations system coupled to the database, the operations system adapted to retrieve the hardware identifier from the database and to determine suitability of the DSL CPE device for use with available updated technology.